ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Alabama Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

HICKORY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ALABAMA,

On the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th of October, 1874.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
BARRETT & BROWN, STEAM PRINTERS AND BOOK-BINDERS.
1874.

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HELD WITH THE

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[illegible] OCT., 20TH, 21ST AND 22D OF [illegible], 1874.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
[illegible]
1874.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The delegates to the Association, pursuant to adjournment, met with the Hickory Grove Church, Montgomery County, Ala., October 9th, 1874.

The regular appointees being absent, Eld. S. A. Goodwin preached the introductory sermon from Acts 2: 47.

After a recess of 45 minutes, the delegates again met, and after singing, and prayer by Eld. E. F. Baber, Eld. David Lee, as Moderator, called the Association to order, and Bro. B. B. Davis was requested to act as Clerk.

Eld. T. N. Coleman, Eld. T. N. Bailey, and Bro. J. L. Burt, by request, read the letters from the Churches and the delegates' names were enrolled, viz:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Centre Ridge—Eld. W. C. Cleveland, S. W. Lide, Willis Watson.
Providence—Letter: No delegate.
Town Creek—Eld. T. E. Bailey, D. B. Edwards, W. R. Hardy.
Bethany—H. W. Caffey,* D. Rast,* Green Rives.
Shiloh—Letter: No delegate.
Pleasant Hill—T. E. Williams, S. W. Catts,* J. Rives Crumpton.
Cedar Creek—J. J. Vaughan,* H. N. C. Farrior,* C. S. Eddings.*
Sister Springs—Not represented.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Hopewell—Eld. D. Lee, Jno. A. Tyson,* O. A. Coleman.
Ash Creek—E. Lyon,* A. K. Gordon,* B. F. Caffey.
Hayneville—Eld. E. F. Baber.
Steep Creek—W. R. Relfe, G. W. Thigpen, W. P. Bullock.
Bethel—Eld. T. N. Coleman, A. F. Childers, J. L. Burt.
Good Hope—Eld. E. F. Baber.
Mt. Gilead—Letter: No delegate.
Benton—Not represented.
Lowndesboro—Not represented.
New Bethel—Not represented.

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*Denotes absentees.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Autaugaville—O. W. Sherrer, J. Nunn,* J. I. Lamar.

First Montgomery—Eld. D. W. Gwin, D. D., Jno. Bullock, B. B. Davis.

Adams Street, Montgomery—Eld. Jefferson Falkner.

Liberty—J. A. Mitchell,* G. W. Crossgrove, Wm. R. Lee.

Union—J. E. Kolb,* J. E. Turner, W. B. Bowden, J. A. Stringer.

Mt. Lebanon—Eld. J. W. Orme, Dr. L. W. Battle, J. S. Bickerly.

Pine Level—G. G. Miles, E. J. Harris, J. H. Dickson.

Midway—W. E. O'Neal,* Thos. Barnett,* Wm. Barnett,* G. N. Crow.*

Unity—Jesse W. Matthews,* Geo. W. Ward,* S. S. Booth.*

Elim—Not represented.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Greenville—Eld. S. A. Goodwin, Eld. J. E. Bell,* H. W. Watson,* J. M. Thigpen.

Philadelphia—P. Edwards, H. F. Hinds.

Antioch—A. P. Safford, W. T. Ellis, A. Whittle.

Damascus—Eld. W. C. Avant, Eld. W. J. Kierce,* J. W. Edge, W. J. Andross.

Hickory Grove—F. Armstrong, J. P. Cross, J. C. Fonville.

New Bethel—W. W. Pruitt.

Macedonia—F. L. Ellis, T. A. Peterson, H. S. Gradden, T. E. May.*

New Ebenezer—Jeff. Cook, Green Davis,* Wm. Brown.*

Rutledge—G. W. Thagard.

After which an election was held, when the following brethren were declared unanimously elected officers, viz: Eld. David Lee, Moderator; B. B. Davis, Clerk; S. W. Lide, Treasurer. The Moderator, in accepting the office, made some feeling remarks, and stated that he had been absent during but one session of the Association in 43 years, and had acted as Moderator for 29 years.

The following Standing Committees were appointed:

On Finance—B. F. Caffey, W. R. Hardy, O. W. Sherrer.

On Religious Services—Jno. Bullock, W. P. Bullock, J. R. Crumpton and Deacons of Hickory Grove Church.

On Missions—(To report next year) Eld. Jefferson Falkner, Eld. M. Bishop.

On Documents—Eld. D. W. Gwin, Eld. J. W. Orme, F. Armstrong, W. W. Pruitt, J. H. Dickson.

On the State of Religion in the Churches—Eld. E. F. Baber, Eld. T. N. Coleman, J. E. Turner, G. G. Miles, E. J. Harris.

Auditing Committee—Dr. J. I. Lamar, T. E. Williams, W. T. Ellis.

On motion, agreed that the vacancy in the District Committee on Sabbath Schools be filled by the appointment of Eld. W. C. Cleveland, Eld. Jeff. Falkner, Eld. M. Bishop, and Bro. D. B. Edwards.

On the *Call for Correspondence* from other bodies—Br'n. Matt Gamble, W. W. Lobe, J. D. McLendon, Eld. J. L. Sampey and Eld. B. A. Jackson,

*Denotes absentees.

were received from Salem Association, and Bro. B. S. Crawford from the Zion Association.

On *Returned Correspondence* the following appointments were made, viz:

To Bethany Association—Eld. S. A. Goodwin, Eld. T. N. Coleman.

To Pine Barren Association—Eld. Jeff. Falkner, Eld. J. E. Bell, Br'n. O. W. Sherrer, J. I. Lamar.

To Unity Association—Eld. Jeff. Falkner, B. B. Davis, O. W. Sherrer, J. I. Lamar, Eld. D. W. Gwin, Eld. T. J. Orme.

To Tuskeegee Association—Eld. Jeff. Falkner.

To Salem Association—E. J. Harris, Eld. J. W. Orme, Eld. T. J. Miles, B. B. Davis.

To Zion Association—Eld. T. N. Coleman, G. W. Thagard, Eld. W. C. Avant.

To Baptist State Convention, meeting on the 13th of November, at Marion, Ala.—Eld. W. C. Cleveland, Eld. G. W. McQueen, Dr. H. W. Caffey, G. W. Thagard, Eld. E. F. Baber, Eld. T. N. Coleman, D. B. Edwards, S. W. Lide, Eld. F. E. Williams, Matt Gamble.

On motion, Eld. D. W. Gwin, D. D., was recognized as President of the Educational Board, A. B. S. C.

Resolved, That the morning business session of each day be opened with one half hour's devotional exercise.

It was further agreed, that the order of exercises be so changed in future that the names of corresponding bodies be given in the minutes, and any brother who is a member of this Association, shall be entitled to represent her.

Adjourned, with prayer by Bro. Williams, until 9 o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY MORNING, October 10th, 1874, 9 o'clock.

After a half hour's devotional exercise conducted by Eld. Jefferson Falkner, the Association was called to order by the Moderator, when the minutes of yesterday were read, corrected and adopted.

The "Rules of order and Decorum in debate" were read by the Clerk.

Bro. S. W. Lide presented his report as Treasurer (Appendix G.) which was read and referred to Auditing Committee.

Eld. D. W. Gwin read the report on Missions (Appendix A.) which was adopted.

The report of the committee on Documents was also read and adopted.—(Appendix F.)

Brother E. F. Baber presented the report on "the state of Religion in the Churches," which was adopted.—(Appendix B.)

The report of the committee on "Associational missions," was read and laid on the table—the hour for adjournment having arrived—until the beginning of the afternoon session.—(Appendix C.)

AFTERNOON SESSION—SATURDAY.

After singing, the report of the committee on Associational missions was taken from the table, when the Association resolved itself into a committee

of the whole—Elder J. M. Falkner in the chair—and cash collected and pledges as follows were made:

D W Gwin	$5.00 paid	Mrs Thames	$1.00 paid
Walter Relfe	1.00 "	Unknown	0.50 "
B B Davis	20.00 "	Dr L W Battle	5.00 "
J W Cottingham	2.00 "		5.00 " $39.50 paid.
G W McQueen	$10.00	David Burt	$5.00
Dr R P Means	5.00	J M Thigpen	5.00
S A Satterwaite	5.00	T N Coleman	5.00
Mrs A F Childers	5.00	Judson Bishop	5.00
D B Edwards	5.00	F L Ellis	5.00
John Gafford	5.00	E F Baber	5.00
M Bishop	5.00	B S Meadows	5.00
Mrs Thames	5.00	R H Cross	5.00
W D Fonville	5.00	John Bullock	5.00

J R Crumpton for Pleasant Hill church	5.00
O W Sherrod for Autaugaville church	5.00
J M Thigpen for Greenville Sunday school	10.00
T N Coleman for outsiders	10.00
Elder David Lee	25.00
T J Orme for Mount Lebanon church	15.00
Hayneville church by ladies	10.00
Miss Laura Bishop	5.00
Elder T M Bailey	25.00
Miss Kate Nutting	5.00
Jefferson Cook for Ebenezer church	2.50
Mrs F M Fonville	2.00
Mrs R P Means	1 00
Mrs F Roper	2.50
A F Childers for Bethel church	20.00
J M Thigpen for Greenville church	25.00
T J Harris for Pine Level church	25.00
F Armstrong for Hickory Grove church	40.00
W P Bullock for Steep Creek church	25.00
W C Avant for Damascus church	20.00
W W Pruitt	5.00
Walter Ellis for Antioch church	10.00
W B Bowden for Union church	10.00
W C Cleveland for Sandy Ridge church	25.00
Making in all	$457.50

in cash and pledges, after which the Association adopted the report—(Appendix C.)

The committee on Devotional Exercises made the following report, which was adopted:—Preaching to-night by Elder Jefferson Falkner; Sabbath school exercises at 9 o'clock to-morrow, conducted by Eld. D. W. Gwin, D. D. Preaching at 11 o'clock—missionary sermon—by Elder T. M. Bailey; at 3 o'clock preaching by Elder D. W. Gwin, D. D., and at night by Elder W. C. Cleveland.

The following resolution was read, and further action postponed until Monday:

Resolved, That we recommend our churches to appoint a committee on "Systematic Beneficence," to devise a plan whereby a contribution for the support of the gospel at home and abroad shall be obtained from every member able to give.

The Moderator appointed the following committee to nominate the

"Board of Missions" of the Association: Elder W. C. Cleveland, Elder T. J. Orme, Elder S. A. Goodwin, Brother J. L. Burt.

Brethren Bailey, Edwards and Cleveland were appointed a committee to draft suitable resolutions on the death of Deacon W. G. Quarles.

Resolved, That all funds sent up for Associational Missions be turned over to the missionary committee.

Resolved, That letters of dismission be issued by the clerk to Providence church and Rutledge church for reasons given in their letters.

On motion, adjourned with prayer, until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

SABBATH SERVICES.

A devotional service was held this morning, conducted by Elder D. W. Gwin, D. D., at 9½ o'clock.

At 11 o'clock, Elder T. M. Bailey preached a missionary sermon from Psalm 102: 4—after which, a collection was taken up amounting to $43.10 in cash, and $9.00 in pledges, making $51.10 in all, for Home and Foreign Missions, viz: Collection, $43.10—Mrs. F. Roper 50 cents, paid; Mrs. G. A. Cottingham $1.00, paid; Mrs. Abbie Ashford 50c.,; A. J. Fonville $2.00; Mrs. F. M. Fonville $2.00; Mrs. E. A. Stewart $1.00; Mrs. E. C. Stewart $2:00, and also a collection taken up for Elder H. F. Buckner, our Indian Missionary, amounting to $32.35 in cash, and $11.50 in pledges, as follows: Mrs. Dr. R. P. Means $2.00, paid; unknown $1.00, paid; Dr. L. W. Battle $5.00, paid; P. J. Smith, $2.00, paid; A. J. Stewart, $2.00, paid; Mrs. Dr. L. W. Battle $2.00, paid; W. O. Killough $2.50, paid; John Stewart $2.00, paid; T. N. Coleman $1.00, paid; G. W. McQueen $1.00, paid; E. J. Harris $1.00, paid; P. Edwards $1.00, paid; T. J. Orme $2.00, paid; E. F. Baber $1.00, paid; A. Moseley $1.00, paid; Calvin Stewart $1.00, paid; J. P. Cross $1,00, paid; Asa Dean $1.00, paid; Bro. Cook $1.00, paid; unknown $1.85, paid, and Mrs. Wade $1.00, Miss Alice Wade $1.00, Mrs. E. O. Daniel $1.00, Miss Kate Nutting $1.00, Mrs. C. D. Lloyd $2.50, Mrs. W. I. A. Killough $5.00.

At 3 o'clock the congregation assembled to hear the sermon by Elder D. W. Gwin, D. D., from John 17: 1; and at 7 o'clock a sermon by Elder W. C. Cleveland, from Titus 2: 14.

MONDAY MORNING, October 12th, 9 o'clock.

After a half hour spent in devotional services, conducted by Elder W. C. Avant, the Association convened, when the minutes of Saturday were read, corrected and approved.

The report of the committee of the first district, selecting Pleasant Hill Church, Dallas county, as the place for the next meeting of the Association, was adopted.

The resolution on systematic beneficence was taken from the table and adopted.

On motion, *Resolved*, That, annually for four years, a district committee be appointed, composed of one from each church, whose duty it shall be to prepare a concise and compact history of each church in the given district, to be published as our circular letter to the churches.

Brother T. M. Bailey was made chairman of the First District Committee, composed of himself and D. B. Edwards, W. C. Cleveland, H. W. Caffey, F. P. Webster, L. Lee, Jere Johnson, to prepare the contemplated history of that district.

The committee to nominate the Committee on Associational Missions, reported the names of Eld. T. M. Bailey, 1st District; W. P. Bullock, 2nd District; B. B. Davis, 3rd District, and Eld. S. A. Goodwin, 4th District; and, on motion, the name of the chairman, Eld. W. C. Cleveland, was added, and the report adopted.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported—Appendix, D—which was adopted.

The Finance Committee made their report—Appendix, H. Referred to Auditing Committee.

On motion, *Resolved*, That as an Association we give our hearty endorsement to the Alabama Baptist, and do most earnestly bespeak for it the universal support of the brotherhood, and business was suspended for sufficient time to take the names of a large number of subscribers.

The committee to prepare suitable resolutions on the death of Deacon W. G. Quarles, made their report—Appendix, E—which was adopted.

On motion, *Resolved*, That we commend the Educational Board in its important work of aiding indigent ministerial students at Howard College, and recommend our churches to take up a collection during the month of November, to be forwarded to the President of the Board at Montgomery, Eld. D. W. Gwin, D. D.

The following pledges were obtained for the Board, viz: Elder M. Bishop, $5.00; Town Creek Church, $5.00; Bethany Church, $5.00; Hopewell Church, $5.00; Pleasant Hill Church, $5.00; Ash Creek Church, $5.00; Hayneville Church, $5.00; Steep Creek Church, $5.00; Bethel Church, $5.00; First, Montgomery, $10.00; Liberty Church, $5.00; Pine Level Church, $5.00; Greenville Church, $5.00; Mt. Lebanon Church, $5.00; Antioch Church, $5.00; Damascus Church, $5.00; Hickory Grove Church, $5.00; New Ebenezer Church, $5.00; Philadelphia Church, $5.00.

The Auditing Committee reported favorably on the Treasurer's and Finance Committee's reports; which were adopted. (Appendixes G. and H.)

Elder E. F. Baber was appointed to preach the next introductory sermon; Eld. G. W. McQueen, alternate, and Eld. D. W. Gwin, D. D., the missionary sermon; Eld. S. A. Goodwin, alternate.

A committee of five was appointed to take into consideration the reforms, if any, which are necessary to facilitate the business of this body and to render its operations more efficient—said committee to report at next session. Committee—Eld. D. W. Gwin, Eld. J. W. Orme, Eld. W. C. Cleveland, Eld. G. W. McQueen, and B. B. Davis.

On motion, *Resolved*, That we recommend the Judson Institute and Howard College at Marion to the patronage and sympathy of Baptists who have children to educate.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the clerk be requested to have as many copies of the minutes printed and distributed as the funds sent up for the purpose will allow, after deducting the necessary expenses of printing and distributing, and that the clerk be requested to have the "Declaration of Faith," with proof texts in full, "the Constitution," and "Rules of Order," printed with the minutes.

On motion, the thanks of the Association were unanimously tendered to the brethren and citizens of this community for their hearty reception and generous hospitality.

The brethren united with Eld. W. C. Cleveland in prayer and in singing, when the parting hand was given, and after a profitable and harmonious session the Association adjourned to meet with Pleasant Hill Church, Dallas county, on Friday before the second Sabbath in October, 1875.

DAVID LEE, Moderator.

BENJ. B. DAVIS, Clerk.

The Committee of Associational Missions, at a subsequent meeting, appointed the following brethren as the Sabbath School Committee for the ensuing year, viz:

1st District—Bro. D. B. EDWARDS.
2nd District—Bro. A. F. CHILDERS.
3rd District—Dr. L. W. BATTLE.
4th District—Bro. J. A. HARRIS.

APPENDIX.

(A.)

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

It becomes every christian to hold his heart on the bosom of Jesus that he may breathe the spirit of the gospel and inscribe over all his duties and deeds this central truth, "freely ye have received, freely give." So long as he makes Christ his Master, so long as he shares the riches of grace and the sympathies of the Spirit, his bounden duty is to obey that word, "Go, preach the gospel to every creature." We bless God that we live in the period of a universal missionary revival, and yet we confess that the missionary spirit is feeble, if not on the decline in many of our churches. To repress our gifts in support of missions is both criminal and suicidal; to give out of the depths of our poverty is Apostolic and Christly. Our mission-work is the one obligation and privilege of Christians. In the conception of the Holy Spirit it is a unit; to our finite apprehension it shows itself under two aspects, the Home and Foreign field. Consider:

I. THE HOME MISSION.

Our Corresponding Secretary, in his last report to the Southern Baptist Convention, says: "The Baptists of the South, when their condition is compared with other years, will not suffer with the charge that their missionary year is lost, or their spirit of liberality is diminished." Twenty-five missionaries were dropped on the 1st of January. Fifty-five missionaries and agents have been in the service of the *Home Mission Board* (the convention at Jefferson, Texas, gave the D., I., and S. S. Board at Marion this name), in Maryland, 2; Virginia, 2; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 4; Florida, 4; Georgia, 10; Alabama, 12; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 7; Kentucky, 4; Missouri 2; Arkansas, 2; Texas 3. Weeks labor, 1978; sermons and addresses, 6578; visits to families 11,275; prayer meetings, 2695; miles, 96393; baptized, 808, by others working with our missionaries, 495; Sunday Schools organized and sustained, 91; pupils and teachers, 5708; conversions in Sunday School, 368.

The Indian field has had 19 missionaries: Weeks labor, 754; sermons and addresses, 2065; visits, 2184; prayer meetings, 855; miles, 24041; baptized, 155, by others with our missionaries, 389; number in fellowship, 1915; number of Sunday Schools, 75, pupils and teachers, 293. Bro. Buckner lives in a house costing about $2,500, owned by the Home Mission Board. Several colored ministers have been aided in obtaining an education. The Sunday School work has been remanded to the State Conventions, and Associations. Alabama gave to this Board $3,784.86, besides doing a good deal of unreported local work.

II. THE FOREIGN FIELD.

Our Board at Richmond has under its appointment the following missionaries:

CHINA.

Tung Chau—T. P. Crawford, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Lottie Moon, Miss E. Moon, Woo Tswun Chau and two native assistants.

Chefoo—J. B. Hartwell and Mrs. Hartwell.

Shanghai—M. T. Yates, Mrs. Yates, Wang Pin Sang, and two native assistants.

Canton—R. H. Graves, Mrs. Graves, N. B. S. Williams, Mrs Williams, Miss Whilden, native pastor, and eight native assistants.

ITALY.

Rome—G. B. Taylor.
Civita Vecchia—Evangelist Gardiol.
Bari—Evangelist Basile.
Bologna—Evangelist Giannini.
Modena and Carpi—Evangelist Martinelli.
La Tour—Evangelist Enon Ferraris.

AFRICA.

Marshall—G. F. Gibson,
Old Fields—T. Early.
Congo Town—G. Tytler and G. F. Gibson.
Taylorsville—G. Tytler and G. F. Gibson.
Little Bassa—T. J. Tate.
Phillipsburg—M. D. Liberty.
Donogba—J. Cook.
Monrovia—B. Yates.
Edina—J. J. Cheeseman.

It has been scrupulous in preventing and successful in paying off its debts. Its gross amount of expenditures was by recommendation of the Convention carefully divided among the States. Alabama's quota from May '74 to May '75 is $3,500, of which over $2,000 is yet to be raised. It advises the use of "mite boxes" in families, and the organization of our Sisters in a woman's mission to woman. Alabama's contribution for the fiscal year ending April 16, 1874, was $1,477.39.

Over the whole foreign field there exists the most significant state of things. The heathen seem to be mysteriously wrought upon by the Holy Spirit. Old barriers are crumbling and new relations, commercial, social and religious, are forming to facilitate the speed of the truth. One missionary held a protracted meeting about a year ago in China, and 160 were added to the church. The third Baptist church in size in the world is in the Southern part of Asia, and was organized only about nine or ten years ago. Our dear Brother Taylor is doing a great work in Italy. Many churches in the foreign field have had more prosperity than many at home, while many are already sending the gospel to regions beyond. A first class man is now greatly needed in our China mission. Shall its call be denied or ignored? It becomes every church, every pastor, every christian to pray for the Spirit of Christ, and keep alive and vividly before the people the solemn claims of our missionaries and of the nations to our sympathies, our prayers, and our beneficence.

D. W. GWIN, Chairman.

(B.)

ON THE STATE OF RELIGION IN THE CHURCHES.

Your committee report that some of the churches tell us of gracious revivals which have added materially to their strength; and while others report no revival at all, yet there has been an increase of numbers within our bounds of about eighty members over deaths, dismissions and exclusions. This is encouraging, yet we find great spiritual barrenness in many churches, which is frequently attributed to the financial condition of the people.

The revivals reported are generally in churches which have not been revived for years.

Respectfully submitted,

E. F. BABER, Chm'n.

(C.)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

Your committee beg leave to report that immediately after the adjourn-

ment of your body, they appointed the following brethren to labor as missionaries in your bounds. Your committee instructed these brethren to raise from their several charges as much as possible towards their support, the committee agreeing to supplement the amounts raised as far as the subscriptions placed in their hands would allow.

Elder G. W. McQueen was appointed to labor with the Shiloh, Benton, Elim and Mt. Gilead churches. He has also labored with Sister Springs Church.

Elder J. L. Sampey was appointed to labor at Rutledge.

Elder J. W. Orme was appointed to labor with Bethseda Church.

Elder M. Bishop was appointed to labor with Macedonia and Philadelphia churches.

Elder E. F. Baber was appointed to labor with Hayneville and Good Hope churches.

Elder T. M. Bailey to labor with New Bethel Church.

These brethren accepted the appointments and have labored faithfully.

STATISTICS OF LABOR.

Miles traveled	5150
Sermons delivered	245
Religious visits	244
Baptized	3
Received by letter	4
Deacons ordained	1
Collected for Associational missions	$153 30
Collected for missions	3 25

These brethren have sown seed which we believe will bear fruit to the glory of God.

T. M. BAILEY,
M. BISHOP,
B. A. JACKSON. } Com.

(D.)

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

In the 1st District, there are 4 schools with 21 teachers, 144 scholars, and 1 teacher's meeting—meeting every Sunday.

In the 2d District, are 3 schools with 18 teachers and 90 scholars—meet every Sunday.

In the 3d District, are 6 schools with 44 teachers, 402 scholars, 2 teacher's meetings—meet every Sunday.

In the 4th District, are 2 schools with 26 teachers, 154 scholars—meet every Sunday.

The total number in the Association are—15 schools; 109 teachers; 790 scholars; 3 teachers' meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
W. C. CLEVELAND, Chairman.

The Association requested the Clerk to note the fact that there are Sabbath schools within the bounds of the Association which are not noted in the letters or included in the above report.

(E.)

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

Since the last meeting of your body, the Lord has removed from us our beloved brother and deacon, W. G. Quarles, of Town Creek Church.

He was an earnest Christian, who endeavored to follow his Master fully, and one who filled the office of Deacon well. His end was peace; and we feel that, though dead, he yet speaketh.

Respectfully submitted,
T. M. BAILEY, Chairman.

(F.)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

We gather the following items from the letters :—

29 churches are represented by delegates, 1 by letter ; 133 members have been received by baptism—blessed showers of grace having fallen on parts of our field, while many churches have had no accessions for one year, or two and even more years. We call attention to the incompleteness of the statistics, especially of the Sunday schools, as these are enjoined by a resolution of the Association. 13 Sunday schools reported, though the statistics are imperfect. 21 churches are reported as giving no missions. We hope churches will send funds for something else besides minutes. Nothing has been sent up in aid of an object that should never be forgotten, namely : indigent ministerial students, supported at Howard College by the Board of Education at Montgomery. One church reported 31 blacks belonging to it. Providence and Rutledge churches ask for dismission respectively to Cahaba and Zion Associations. Greenville excluded 51 members, and wisely urges by precept as well the need and duty of faithful discipline. We commend the efforts of the Sisters' Aid Societies, which in several churches are working so vigorously for the support of their pastors and for works of beneficence. As an example to others, we record that several churches have given bonds in behalf of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Town Creek, Greenville and Pleasant Hill Churches desire the next session of the Association. Prayer for our country is asked by one church. Town Creek Church mourns the death of deacon W. G. Quarles.

Respectfully submitted,

D. W. GWIN, Chairman.

(G.)

TREASURER'S REPORT.

SAMUEL W. LIDE, *Treasurer*,

In account with the Alabama Baptist Association:

DR.

1873–4.	To cash for Minutes	$59	85	
	" Domestic and Indian Missions	15	00	
	" Foreign "	14	05	
	" Associational "	26	50	
	" Associat'l Missions, redeem'd pledges	185	60	
	" " " collected and reported by Elder T. N. Coleman	99	50	
	" Alabama State Convention	3	00	
	" State Sunday school board	16	75	
	" from collections on Sabbath	27	60	—447 85

CR.

By cash paid clerk for Minutes	$59	85	
" " Dr. Sumner for Dom. & Ind'n Missions	15	00	
" " " for Foreign Missions	23	25	
" " " " Dom. & Ind. S.S. B.	9	20	
" " " " State "	25	95	
" " " " " Convention	3	00	
" " Elder T. N. Coleman, Associ'al Mis.	311	60	—447 85

Respectfully submitted,

S. W. LIDE.

Examined and found correct.

J. I. LAMAR, Chairm'n Aud. Com.

Report of Committee

Churches.	Pledges Redeemed from last year for Associational Missions.	Minutes.	Domestic and Indian Missions.	Domestic Missions.
Centre Ridge	.....	2 50	.....	.....
Providence	.....	4 00	.....	.....
Town Creek	.....	2 50	1 00	.....
Bethany	.....	2 00	6 00	.....
Ash Creek	.....	2 00	.....	.....
Steep Creek	25 00	2 50	.....	.....
Hayneville	.....	1 00	.....	.....
Good Hope	.....	1 00	.....	.....
Mt. Gilead	.....	70	.....	.....
Shiloh	.....	1 50	.....	.....
First, Montgomery	.....	5 00	.....	33 50
Adams Street, Montgomery	.....	2 50	5 00	.....
Pleasant Hill	.....	2 50	.....	.....
Bethel	.....	3 50	.....	.....
Unity	.....	2 50	.....	.....
Greenville	.....	3 00	10 00	.....
Rutledge	.....	1 00	.....	.....
New Ebenezer	10 00	3 00	.....	.....
Hickory Grove	25 00	3 00	.....	.....
Macedonia	.....	2 00	.....	.....
Antioch	.....	3 00	.....	.....
Liberty	25 00	2 25	.....	.....
Cedar Creek	.....	1 50	.....	.....
Philadelphia	.....	1 50	.....	.....
Mt. Lebanon	35 00	3 00	.....	.....
Union	.....	3 00	.....	.....
Damascus	10 00	3 85	.....	.....
New Bethel	.....	1 50	.....	.....
Hopewell	25 00	3 00	.....	.....
Pine Level	.....	3 00	.....	.....
Midway	.....	2 00	.....	.....
Autaugaville	.....	1 00	.....	.....
Little W. C. Stewart's 1st contribution	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sabbath School, 1st Montgomery	.....	.....	.....	32 40
Sabbath collection in church	.....	.....	.....	21 80
Saturday collection in church	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	*155 00	76 30	22 00	87 70

Amount reported above *155 00
" next page 162 00
In all 317 00

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. CAFFEY,
W. R. HARDY,
O. W. SHERRER. } Com.

on Finance—1874.

Foreign Missions.	Ladies Benevolent Society, sent to M. T. Sumner.	Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Greenville, S. C.	Ministerial Education Howard College	State Sunday School Board	Associational Missions.	For Brother H. F. Buckner, Indian Missions.	Totals.
.....	.....	.....	.....	10 00	12 05	.....	24 55
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25 00	.....	29 00
16 00	68 70	*100 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	88 20
16 00	.....	*100 00	.....	.....	6 00	.....	30 00
5 90	.....	*100 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 90
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27 50
.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	1 00	.....	3 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50
32 55	.....	*1500 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	117 55
.....	.....	46 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 50
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 60	.....	7 10
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 70	.....	10 20
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 50
5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	25 00	.....	43 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 00	12 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 50	.....	9 50
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27 25
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	38 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 85
12 75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14 25
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 00	.....	6 00
.....	.....	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
37 30	.....	.....	23 07	29 88	.....	.....	122 65
21 80	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32 35	75 95
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39 50	.....	39 50
147 30	68 70	47 00	23 07	40 88	131 35	42 35	841 65

*Total bonds 1800 00.

The following additional amounts were received for pledges redeemed from last year for Associational Missions:

Matthew Bishop, $25; W. H. Pierce, $5; J. I. Lamar, $5; E. J. Harris, $25; Jno. D. Wright, $2.50.; J. B. Parker, $2.50.; T. J. Miles, $5; Mrs. E. Spear, $1; Miss Armstrong, $5; F. L. Ellis, $10; J. A. Mitchell, $10; G. W. Crossgrove, $5; L. L. Lee, $10; P. W. Spear, $5; B. A. Jackson, $5; Mrs. B. A. Jackson, $5; Mrs. H. E. Orme, $2; G. W. Peal, $2; Mrs. G. W. Peal, 2; David Lee, $2.50c.; Mrs. T. M. Bailey, $5.—Total, $317.

Examined and found correct.

J. I. LAMAR,
T. E. WILLIAMS,
W. T. ELLIS.
} Auditing Com.

Statistical Table

	CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.
1st District.	Centre Ridge	W C Cleveland	J W Dennis
	Providence	W B Crumpton	Lewis Johnson
	Town Creek	T M Bailey	T A Hardy
	Bethany	" "	Jno A Caffey
	Shiloh	G W McQueen	J M Lide
	Pleasant Hill	W C Cleveland	J W Smyly
	Cedar Creeek	J F Bruner	Ithiel Ingram
	Sister Springs		
2nd District.	Hopewell	David Lee	J H Robertson
	Ash Creek*	T M Bailey	A K Gordon
	Hayneville	E F Baber	A Varner
	Steep Creek	M Bishop	U G W Powell
	Bethel	B A Jackson	R M Burt
	Good Hope	E F Baber	
	Mt. Gilead	G W McQueen	H W Edwards
	Benton		
	Lowndesboro		
	New Bethel		
3rd District.	Autaugaville		J I Lamar
	Adams Street, Montgomery	Jefferson Falkner	J M Falkner
	First "	D W Gwin, D D	J R Adams
	Liberty	J W Orme	Geo W Crossgrove
	Union	W C Avant	J A Stringer
	Mt Lebanon	B A Jackson	Jasper Day
	Pine Level	J S Yarbrough	Geo G Miles
	Midway	Thos J Miles	W E O'Neal
	Elim		
	Unity	H Clay Taul	Jas H Booth
4th district.	Greenville	S A Goodwyn	Jas A Harris
	Philadelphia	M Bishop	H F Hinds
	Antioch	J E Bell	Jno P Gafford
	Damascus	W C Avant	S F Andress
	Hickory Grove	B A Jackson	Asa Dean
	Macedonia	M Bishop	H S Graden
	New Ebenezer	W C Avant	Jefferson Cook
	Rutledge	Jas L Sampey	G W Thagard

*Ash Creek—31 of the members are colored.

The Clerks of the Churches will greatly oblige the Clerk by following order of the above table as far as practicable.

Of the Churches, 1874.

POST OFFICE.	County.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Rec'd by Voucher.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Deceased.	Excluded.	Number of White Members.	Increase.	Decrease.	Ladies Be vol't Soc't's	Prayer Meetings.	Young Men's Prayer Meetings.	Sunday Schools.	Teachers.	Scholars.	Teacher's Meeting.	Sabbath Meeting.
Richmond	D	19	1	..	1	4	..	..	88	14	..	..	3	ES	ES	7	74	ET	2d
Cambridge	D	1	..	1	..	5	..	..	74	..	3	..	1	....	2–4	..	....	....	4th
Benton	L	7	..	1	1	1	1	..	70	7	..	1	*	....	ES	9	50	....	1st
Benton	L	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	49	..	5	..	1	....	....	5	40	....	2d
Selma	D	..	2	..	..	....	..	..	20	2	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	4th
Pleasant Hill	D	5	3	1	..	....	..	..	74	9	..	1	1	1	....	5	25	....	4th
Farmersville	L	..	3	..	..	....	1	..	41	2	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	2–4
.....	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	....
Mt Willing	L	6	3	..	..	8	..	..	86	1	..	..	..	....	....	2	20	....	1–3
Benton	L	..	4	..	..	1	2	..	*66	1	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	4th
Hayneville	L	1	1	..	..	....	..	1	28	1	..	..	..	....	ES	..	....	....	1st
Haynevelle	L	3	2	..	..	2	2	..	61	1	..	..	1	....	ES	..	....	....	1st
Fort Deposit	L	11	3	..	1	8	..	1	154	6	..	..	..	....	ES	5	35	1	1st
.....	B	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	3rd
.....	L	1	..	..	..	....	..	..	17	1	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	3rd
Benton	L	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	...
Lowndesboro	L	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	...
Bragg's Store	L	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	...
Autaugaville	A	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	20	..	3	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	...
Montgomery	M	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	70	..	..	..	1	....	ES	7	40	1	ES
Montgomery	M	7	6	..	1	9	7	..	310	..	2	1	1	1	ES	23	227	1	ES
Pine Level	M	17	5	..	2	....	..	..	49	..	..	..	1	....	ES	5	30	....	1st
Honoroville	C	7	10	1	..	....	..	1	55	17	..	..	..	....	2	..	....	....	4th
Raif Branch	M	21	..	..	2	18	1	2	88	2	..	..	1	....	ES	3	30	....	4th
Pine Level	M	1	2	1	..	12	1	2	93	..	11	..	1	....	....	..	50	....	4th
Pine Level	M	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	33	..	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	1st
Montgomery	M	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	....
Prattville	A	..	4	..	..	12	1	9	54	..	18	..	1	....	....	8	40	....	....
Greenville	B	5	2	2	3	9	..	51	127	..	51	1	1	....	ES	15	125	....	ES
Argus	M	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	35	..	2	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	...
Greenville	B	17	12	..	..	5	2	..	80	22	..	..	1	....	....	..	....	....	1st
Greenville	B	6	4	..	..	12	3	2	88	..	7	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	3rd
Letohatchee	L	3	1	..	..	3	..	1	45	..	..	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	3rd
Fort Deposit	L	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	29	..	1	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	4th
Saville	C	1	..	..	1	5	..	3	61	..	4	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	...
Rutledge	C	..	..	..	..	1	1	.	7	..	2	..	..	....	....	..	....	....	3rd
TOTAL:		139	65	4	12	117	21	66	2080	86	109	4	17	3	12	94	786	4	

*Twice a week.

DECLARATION OF FAITH OF ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I.—*Of the Scriptures.*—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men Divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of Heavenly instruction [*a*]; that it has God for its author [*b*], salvation for its end [*c*], and truth without any mixture of error for its matter [*d*]; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us [*e*], and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union [*f*], and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried [*g*].

(*a*) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and *is profitable* for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works—2 Tim. iii, 16, 17. (*b*) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost—2 Peter i, 21. (*c*) These things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that, believing, ye might have life through his name—John xx, 31. (*d*) For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works *are done* in truth—Psalm xxxiii, 4. (*e*) God shall judge the secrets of men, according to my gospel—Rom. ii, 10. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works—Rev. xx, 12. (*f*) Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let them be accursed—Gal. i, 9. (*g*) If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed—Gal. i, 10.]

ART. II.—*Of the True God.*—That there is one, and only one, true and living God [*a*], whose name is JEHOVAH [*b*], the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth [*c*], inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all confidence and love [*d*]; revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every Divine perfection [*e*], and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption [*f*]

(*a*) God is one—Gal. iii, 20. (*b*) That *men* may know that thou, whose name is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth—Psalm lxxxiii, 18. (*c*) For by him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible—Col. i, 16. (*d*) Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders—Ex. xv, 11. (*e*) For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one—1 John v, 7 For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily—Col. ii, 9. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God—Phil. ii, 6. (*f*) God sent his Son into the world, that the world through him might be saved—John iii, 17. Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures—Cor. xv, 3. And was raised again for our justification—Rom. iv, 25. He ever liveth to make intercession for them—Heb. vii, 25. It is the Spirit that quickeneth—John vi, 63.

ART. III.—*Of the Full of Man.*—That man was created in a state of holiness under the law of his Maker [*a*], but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice [*b*], being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification

of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions [*c*] ; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence and excuse [*d*].

(*a*) So God created man in his own image—Gen. i, 27. God made man upright—Ec. vii, 29. (*b*) In Adam all die—1 Cor. xv, 22. There is none righteous, no, not one—Rom. iii, 10. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do—John viii. 44. (*c*) He that believeth not is condemned already; because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotton Son of God—John iii, 18. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction—2 Thes. i, 8. (*d*) And he was speechless—Mat. xxii, 12. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the World are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse—Rom. i, 20.

Art. IV.—*Of the Way of Salvation.*—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace [*a*], through the mediatorial office of the Son of God [*b*] who took on him our nature, yet without sin [c] ; honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death [*d*] ; being risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in Heaven [*e*] ; and uniting in his wonderful person, the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour [*f*].

(*a*) For by grace ye are saved, through faith ; and that not of yourselves, it *is* the gift of God—Eph. ii, 8. (*b*) For *there* is one God and *one* Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus—1 Tim. ii, 5. (*c*) For as much as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also took part of the same—Heb. ii, 14. And in him is no sin—1 John iii, 5. (*d*) The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake ; he will magnify the law and make it honorable—Isa. xlii, 21. We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son—Rom. v, 10. (*e*) But, we see Jesus—crowned with glory and honor—Heb. ii, 9. (*f*) For we have an High Priest that can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities—Heb. iv, 15. For in him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily—Col. ii, 9.

Art. V.—*Of Justification.*—That the great gospel blessing, which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in him, is Justification [*a*], that Justification consists in the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness [*b*] ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness [*c*] ; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity [*d*].

(*a*) Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ—Rom. v, 1. (*b*) Whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins—Acts x, 30. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life—John iii, 36. Whom God hath set forth to *be* a propitiation, through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God—Rom. iii, 25. (*c*) Not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost—Titus iii, 5. (*d*) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things—Rom. viii, 32.

Art. VI.—*Of the Freeness of Salvation.*—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel [*a*]; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith [*b*]; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ [c]; which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation [*d*].

(*a*) Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth ; for I am God, and *there is* none else—Isa. xlv, 22. Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely—Rev. xxii, 17. (*b*) Now he commandeth all men everywhere to re-

pent—Acts xvii, 30. (*c*) Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life—John v, 40. (*d*) It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee—Mat. xi, 24.

Art. VII.—*Of Grace in Regeneration.*—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated, or born again [*a*]; that Regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel [*b*]; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit we bring forth to the glory of God [*c*].

(*a*) Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God—Jno. iii, 3. (*b*) And be renewed in the spirit of our mind. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness—Eph. iv, 23, 24. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit—John iii, 3. Every one that loveth, is born of God, and knoweth God—1 John iv, 7. If a man love me, he will keep my words—John xiv, 23. (*c*) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them—Eph. ii, 10. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not—1 John v, 18.

Art. VIII.—*Of God's Purpose of Grace.*—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners [*a*]; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end [*b*]; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable, that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy [*c*]; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree [*d*]; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the gospel [*e*]; is the foundation of Christian assurance [*f*]; and that, to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence [*g*].

(*a*) God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth—2 Thes. ii, 13. (*b*) Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory—2 Tim. ii, 10. (*c*) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love—Eph. i, 4. (*d*) Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory—2 Tim. ii, 10. (*e*) And they that are with him are called, and chosen and faithful—Rev. xvii, 14. (*f*) Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth?—Rom. viii, 33, 34. (*g*) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give all diligence to make your calling and election sure.—2 Peter i, 10.

Art. IX.—*Of the Perseverance of Saints.*—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end [*a*]; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors [*b*]; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation [*c*].

(*a*) Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him; and he cannot sin because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil—1 John iii, 9, 10. (*b*) They went out from us, but they were not of us—2 John ii, 19. (*c*) God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it—1 Cor. x, 13. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time—1 Peter i, 5.

Art. X.—*Harmony of the Law and Gospel.*—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government [*a*]; that it is holy,

just, and good [*b*]; that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfil its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them, through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace, connected with the establishment of the visible Church [*c*].

(*a*) Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one title shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled—Mat. v, 18. (*b*) Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good—Rom. vi, 12. (*c*) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit—Rom viii, 4. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; yea, we establish the law—Rom. iii, 31.

Art. XI.—*Of a Gospel Church.*—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; [*a*] governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word [*b*]; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties, are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus [*c*].

(*a*) Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, to all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints—Rom. i, 7. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death—Rom. vi, 4. Paul, an apostle unto the Churches of Galatia—Gal. i, 1, 2. For ye are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Jesus Christ, have put on Christ—Gal. iii, 26, 27. (*b*) Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord—1 Cor. xiii, 4, 5. (*c*) A Bishop, then must be blameless—1 Tim. iii, 1, 7. Likewise must the Deacons be grave—1 Tim. iii, 8, 9, 10; see also Titus i. 7, 8, 9. Let the Elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in word and doctrine; and the laborer is worthy of his reward. Against an Elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses—1 Tim. 17, 18, 19.

Art. XII. *Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.*—That Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit [*a*]; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our *faith* in a crucified and risen Saviour, with its purifying power [*d*]; that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of a Church relation, and to the Lord's Supper [*c*]; in which the members of the Church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination [*d*].

(*a*) See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest; and he said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And they went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him—Acts viii, 36, 37, 38. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost—Mat. xxviii, 19. (*b*) Buried with him, in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him, through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead—Col. ii, 12. (*c*) Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God—John iii, 5. Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples—Matt. xxvi, 26. And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread—Acts xx, 7. For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come—1 Cor. xi, 26. (*d*) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup—verse 28.

Art. XIII. *Of the Christian Sabbath.*—That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath [*a*]; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations [*b*]; by

the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public [*c*]; and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God [*d*].

(*a*) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day—Rev. i, 10. (*b*) Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy—Ex. xx, 8. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it—verse 11. (*c*) Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow—Acts xx, 7. (*d*) There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God—Heb. iv, 9. Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest—verse 11.

ART. XIV. *Of Civil Government.*—That civil government is of Divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society [*a*]; and that magistrates are to be prayed for [*b*], conscientiously honored and obeyed [*c*], except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ [*d*], who is the only Lord of the conscience, and Prince of the kings of the earth [*e*].

(*a*) For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God—Rom. xiii, 1. For he is the minister of God to thee for good—verse 4. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil—verse 3. (*b*) I exhort, therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks, be made for all men; for kings and for all that are in authority—1 Tim. i, 1, 2. (*c*) Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake—Rom. xiii, 5. (*d*) We ought to obey God rather than men —Acts v, 29. (*e*) Christ is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, the Lord of lords—1 Tim. vi, 15.

ART. XV. *Of the Righteous and the Wicked.*—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked [*a*]; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in his esteem [*b*], while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief, are in his sight wicked, and under the curse [*c*]; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death [*d*].

(*a*) He that is not with me is against me—Luke xi, 23. Now, if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his—Rom. viii, 9. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil; whosoever doeth not righteousness, is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother—1 John iii, 10. (*b*) To declare, I say, at this time, his righteousness; that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus—Rom. iii, 26. But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God—1 Cor vi, 11. (*c*) Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish—Luke xiii, 3. He that believeth not is condemned already—John iii, 18. (*d*) He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still—Rev. xxii, 11.

ART. XVI. *Of the World to Come.*—That the end of this world is approaching (*a*); that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution(*b*); that a solemn separation will then take place (*c*); that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy (*d*); and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness (*e*).

(*a*) But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer—1 Peter iv, 7. (*b*) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first—1 Thes. iv, 16. All that are in their graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of damnation—John v, 28, 29 (*c*) And before him shall be gathered together all nations; and he shall separate them one from another,

as a shepherd divideth the sheep from the goats—Mat. xxv, 32. (*d*) And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal—Mat. xxv, 32. (*e*) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to his works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death—Rev. xx, 13, 14. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?—Gen. xviii, 25.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 1. This Union of Churches shall be known and distinguished by the style and title of the ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART. 2. This Association shall be composed of Representatives from the Churches in union. Each Church shall be entitled to three Delegates, and for every additional hundred members, above the first hundred, shall be entitled to an additional Delegate; but in the business of the Association, whenever the Delegates from any Church of the body shall request it, the vote shall be taken by Churches, and in that event each Church shall be entitled to three votes.

ART. 3. The Delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the appointment of a Moderator and a Clerk. These officers shall be chosen by ballot at each annual meeting, and continue in office until new ones are chosen. Should any event transpire so as to prevent an annual meeting of this Association, the Moderator shall have power to call a meeting at any time or place, which meeting, when convened, shall have all the rights of a regular annual meeting.

ART. 4. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the Churches of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies, in all measures of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council; assuming no authority, except what is expressly delegated to her by the Churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of this compact. She, nevertheless, claims authority over her own members, the Delegates of the Churches; and, in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from, and disown all Churches, that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. She should, therefore, regard all the churches, united under the Constitution, with a vigilant eye for good. Her principal business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God, by extending his kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the gospel and other means in accordance with that gospel; to cultivate union and fellowship with all the Churches of Christ, and especially with those united in this Association.

ART. 5. Newly constituted Churches, or Churches dismissed from other Associations of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union, on their sending up their Delegates to an annual meeting, with a petition; and by those delegates agreeing to the Abstract of Principles adopted by this Association.

ART. 6. The Churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of the delegates, number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, deceased since the last session, and all other information which the Churches may deem of importance, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 7. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the Churches; and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the Churches, and paid over through the Committee on Finance to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association. He shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present annually for

insertion in the Minutes a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

Art. 8. This Association shall furnish the Churches with the Minutes of every session.

Art. 9. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the Churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed; nor of any difficulties between Churches, unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them; then the Association shall take such matters into consideration and act upon them at her discretion.

Art. 10. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed Minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

Art. 11. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

Art. 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association, by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members present; Provided, such alteration or amendment be approved by a majority of the Churches.

RULES OF ORDER FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. At every annual meeting of this Associotion, immediately after the delegates names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall hold their offices until new ones are chosen.

2. The Moderator shall take the Chair every day, at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall immediately call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum, shall cause the Minutes of the preceding day to be read.

3. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak to points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association by any two members; on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless by leave of the Association.

4. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.

5. Questions shall be distinctly put; those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of a contrary opinion shall say no. If the Moderator doubts, or a division be called for, the delegates shall divide; those in the affirmative of the question shall first rise from their seats, and afterwards those in the negative.

6. The Moderator shall appoint all committees, unless otherwise specially directed by the Association.

7. In all cases of election the Moderator may vote; in other cases he shall not vote unless the body be equally divided; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak to any question, provided he call some other member to occupy the Chair while he is speaking.

8. The Clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates; minute the proceedings of the body, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.

9. The Treasurer shall receive, account for and pay out all moneys belonging to this body, according to the instructions of the Association, and perform snch other duties as the Association may direct.

DECORUM IN DEBATE.

10. When any member is about to speak, or deliver any matter to the Association, he shall rise from his seat, and shall respectfully address the

Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate and avoid personalities.

11. If any member in speaking, or otherwise, transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may call him to order; in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain; and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair shall be submitted to; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, he shall not be permitted to proceed in case any member object, without leave of the Association.

12. When two or more members happen to rise at once, the Moderator shall name the member who is first to speak.

13. No member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending; in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

14. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put, shall give his vote, unless the Association for special reason excuse him.

15. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair, or being in writing, it shall be handed to the Moderator and read aloud before debated.

16. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Chair or any member desire it.

17. After a motion is stated by the Chair or read aloud by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the body, but may be withdrawn by leave of the Association at any time before a decision or amendment.

18. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be entertained but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a day certain, to commit or amend, to postpone indefinitely—which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged; and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or to postpone indefinitely being decided, shall again be allowed during the session.

19. A motion to adjourn shall be always in order, except the Association be engaged in voting.

20. A motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order, except a member be speaking, or the body engaged in voting.

21. On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order arising after a motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

22. The previous question shall be in this form: "Shall the main question be now put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate, and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any; upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

23. No motion, or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration, shall be admitted under color of amendment.

24. When a motion has been once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move a reconsideration thereof, on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions, except a motion to adjourn.

25. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator, nor leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

26. Should any member of this Association absent himself before the close of the session without permission from the body, he shall be marked in the Minutes as absent without leave.

BAPTIST MINISTERS LIVING WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION.

W. C. Cleveland, Minter's Station, S. & G. R. R., Dallas county.
T. M. Bailey, Pleasant Hill, Dallas county.
David Lee, Mt. Willing, Lowndes county.
J. E. Bell, Greenville, Butler county.
Matt Bishop, Fort Deposit, Lowndes county.
Geo. W. McQueen, Hayneville, Lowndes county.
D. W. Gwin, D. D., Montgomery.
Jefferson Falkner, "
Jas. M. Newman, "
J. W. Orme, Ramah, Montgomery county.
W. C. Avant, Greenville.
J. J. Miles, Pine Level.
L. A. Goodwin, Greenville.
T. N. Coleman, "
F. E. Baber, "
W. J. Kierce, "
H. Clay Taul, Prattville.

We are needing, to perfect a FILE of the Minutes of the Association, for its use, the Minutes from 1819 to 1830, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1841 and 1844, and would be greatly obliged for the loan of them that they may be copied. Please mail or send to

B. B. DAVIS, Clerk,
P. O. Box 89, Montgomery, Ala.